

SEX OFFENSES

Sex offenses refer to five crimes of a sexual nature: prostitution and solicitation, indecent assault, indecent exposure, peeping and spying, annoying and accosting. Rape is not included because it is a Part One Crime.

ANNOYING & ACCOSTING

16 reported in 2001 · 16 reported in 2002

“Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex” is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns. The majority of the incidents in 2002 involved females being followed by males in their late 20’s who make lewd suggestions. Some of these cases progressed to borderline stalking.

INDECENT ASSAULT

22 reported in 2001 · 24 reported in 2002

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another, generally in a private area or with sexual overtones. In about 60 percent of indecent assault incidents, the victim and offender know each other. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim is coded as attempted rapes, *not* as indecent assaults. In addition, any force or injury would change the type of crime to an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. The categorical breakdown for indecent assaults in Cambridge in 2002 included: seven incidents where the victim was acquainted with the assailant and nine “blitz” type scenarios where the attacker was a stranger and rushed the victim and was ultimately frightened away by the victim’s screams or the approach of potential witnesses.

PEEPING & SPYING

9 reported in 2001 · 15 reported in 2002

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments. Six of the 15 peeping and spying incidents reported in Cambridge in 2002 were in Neighborhood #6 (Mid-Cambridge). These incidents were concentrated in the 400 block of Harvard Street near the intersections of Ware, Fayette and off of Broadway near Kirkland and Irving Streets. However, due to the varying suspect descriptions a pattern could not be established. The last major peeping and spying pattern to emerge in the City was in the fall of 1998. The pattern involved a series of incidents in the Peabody neighborhood where the offender was a male spying on other males. A suspect was identified but there was not enough evidence to pursue an arrest.

PROSTITUTION & SOLICITING SEX FOR A FEE

2 reported in 2001 · 11 reported in 2002

The major arrest for prostitution by the Special Investigations Unit in Cambridge in 2002 involved a sophisticated sting operation on a “brothel” that was operating out of a condo in Cambridgeport. The New York based operation was advertising on a web site and pandered to well-to-do clientele. The most common form of prostitution is streetwalking, that is, “hookers”, working the street and corners. In response to community complaints, the Special Investigations Unit set up a sting on the periphery of Central Square. On one summer night six prostitutions collars were made.

